... about Quantico ...

(NAVMC-QUANTICO)

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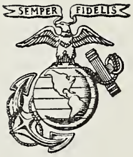

SEMPER FIDELIS

This is about Quantico.

Quantico—a cluster of tents beside the Potomac in 1917.

Quantico—where the modern amphibious art was forged in the uneasy period between two World Wars.

Quantico—intellectual fountainhead of the Marine Corps today.

Genesis

Quantico had its origin in the enlarged concept of Marine Corps employment which began to develop at the turn of the 20th century.

Throughout the preceding 125 years, the frequent requirements for Marines had usually been met by hastily organizing forces for the jobs at hand. In some cases, landing parties comprising the assembled Marine detachments from several warships sufficed. In other instances, units as large as a battalion were assembled ashore and dispatched to the point of need.

In the 19th Century, a "force of Marines" usually meant a ship's detachment organized into a landing party.

The Advanced Base Force was created in 1903.

The War with Spain demonstrated the desirability of a new concept, that of permanently organized Marine forces maintained in readiness for instant embarkation. The result was the creation of an Advanced Base Force of Marines in 1903.

The Advanced Base Force, averaging about a regiment in strength, was based at the Philadelphia Navy Yard during the brief periods in its early history when it was not engaged in supporting United States policy in various corners of the globe. As American entry into World War I became imminent, the Advanced Base Force was rapidly expanded, and soon overflowed its Philadelphia barracks. Accordingly, in early 1917, Major General George Barnett, 12th Commandant of the Marine Corps, ordered that a new training camp be found.

The specifications called for tent space for 7500 Marines, terrain suitable for tactical maneuvers and target practice, and accessibility by water—the last specification being designed to insure the ability of the Marines to embark in their transports and depart without delay in time of need.

After some search, a tract of 6000 acres was located at Quantico, Virginia, on the west bank of the Potomac River between Chopawamsic and Quantico Creeks. The site was leased, and the first Quantico Marines pitched their tents on May 14, 1917. The tents were gradually replaced by temporary frame buildings, some of which were ferried across the Potomac on Navy barges from the old Marine barracks at Stump Neck, Maryland.

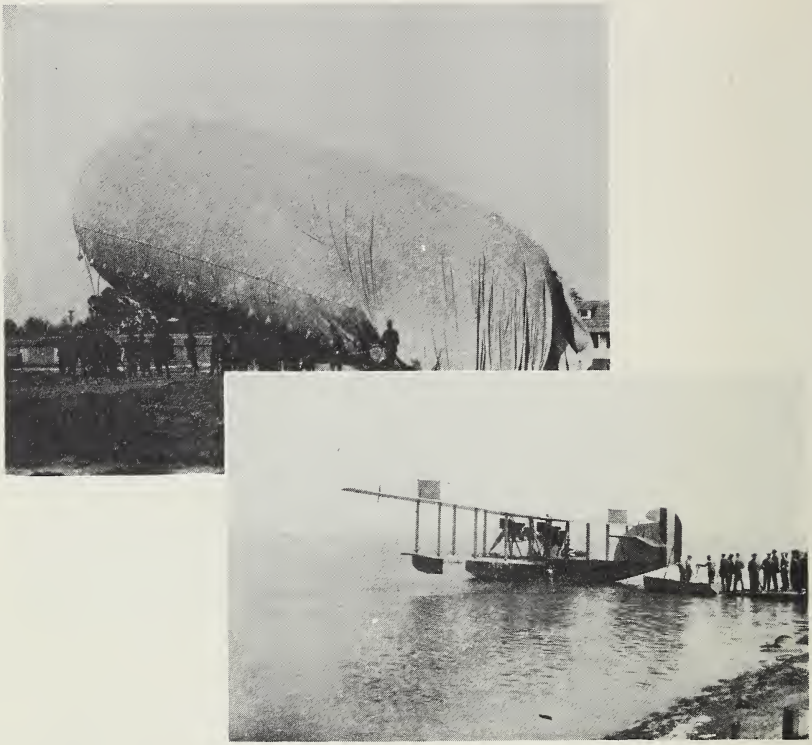
The heart of Quantico in 1917.

In 1918, the Quantico site was purchased, and Navy Secretary Josephus Daniels authorized the Marine Corps to develop it as a permanent base.

An air station became a part of the new base in July, 1918, when two kite balloons were first flown for the observation of artillery fire. These forerunners of today's spotting helicopters were joined a few months later by four seaplanes, which operated at the muddy juncture of Chopawamsic Creek and the Potomac. The first landing field was soon laid out a few hundred yards away, and was named Brown Field, in memory of Second Lieutenant Walter V. Brown, who lost his life in an early accident at the field.

The Marine Corps Schools were established at Quantico in 1921, when Major General John A. Lejeune, 13th Commandant of the Corps, decided to implement the concept, then relatively new among the armed forces, that the education of each Marine, officer and enlisted, should continue at progressively higher levels throughout his service career. Prior to that time, there had existed a "School of Application" for newly commissioned officers, but otherwise it had been the custom for personnel to acquire their professional knowledge and skill by the "master-apprentice" system.

Initially, the Schools consisted of a Basic School, for new second lieutenants; a Company Officers' School, for captains; and a Field Officers' School, for majors. Schools for officer and enlisted specialists were soon added.



Quantico aviation in its infancy.

These "temporary" buildings, still in use, housed the Marine Corps Schools in the early days.

Pioneering

The days are largely past when individual military posts could figure prominently in world history.

Such opportunities do recur occasionally, however, and one such chance fell to the lot of Quantico in the two decades between 1920 and 1940. In those twenty years the modern art of amphibious warfare—touchstone of victory in World War II—was created, and Quantico played a leading role in the creation.

It became apparent to the Marine Corps in the early 1920's that a war with Japan was little short of inevitable. It was also clear that a successful offensive against Japan must entail seizure—by amphibious assault—of a chain of advanced naval bases extending across the Pacific. In 1921, the year which witnessed the founding of the Marine Corps Schools, the course of events in a war with Japan was forecast in detail and with prophetic accuracy by Lieutenant Colonel Earle Ellis, who "disappeared" in 1923 while on an intelligence mission into the Japanese-mandated Palaus.

The prospect of such an amphibious war was a bleak one when it faced General Lejeune and his Marine planners in the early 1920's. The tragic failure of the British at Gallipoli, only a few years before, had convinced orthodox military thinkers, without exception, that an amphibious assault could not succeed in the face of serious opposition.

Despite the forbidding nature of the problem, General Lejeune determined that it must be solved, and set the Corps to work at solving it.

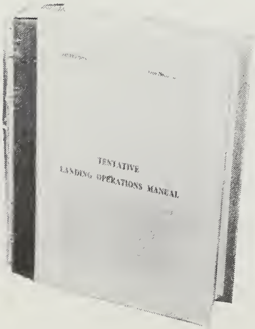
The task involved creation of a whole new body of tactical and technical doctrine, and the invention of a whole new arsenal of equipment. It called for theoretical study and practical application. It required a long and persevering process of innovation, test, and modification. As events turned out, it demanded the best efforts of the Marine Corps, supported when necessary by its sister service, the Navy, for nearly twenty years.

Quantico was well equipped to undertake the major portion of the task, and became the focal point of amphibious development almost immediately.

The Marine Corps Schools attacked the doctrinal aspects of the problem, and by 1935 had completed a "Tentative Landing Operations Manual." This extraordinary document was adopted intact by the Navy in 1938, under the title "FTP-167, Landing Operations Doctrine, U. S. Navy." It was again borrowed verbatim in 1941, when the U. S. Army issued its first amphibious manual, FM 31-5. Its tenets still constitute the basis for the U. S. Fleet publications which are today's amphibious "bible."

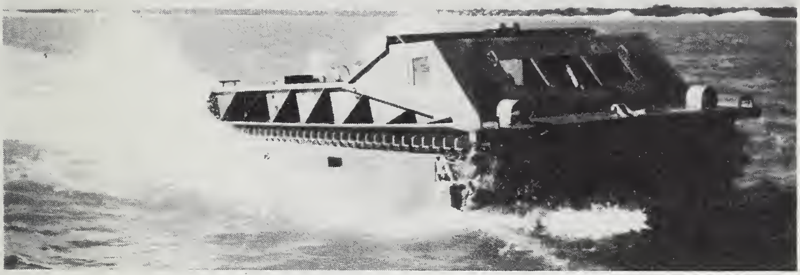
Lieutenant Colonel Earle Ellis, prophet of amphibious warfare.

Major General John A. Lejeune, 13th Marine Commandant, led the Corps into the field of amphibious development.



TENTATIVE
LANDING OPERATIONS MANUAL

The first amphibious doctrine . . . the basis of today's amphibious "bible".



The first amphibian tractor, the ancestor of the model shown here, was demonstrated at Quantico in 1940.

To attack equipment aspects of the problem, a development and testing agency was established at Quantico. After several re-christenings, this became known as the Marine Corps Equipment Board. It assumed leadership in the development of the many new devices needed to conduct and support military operations across the difficult natural barrier presented by a shore line. Most notable among the Board's achievements was the amphibian tractor—now famous as the LVT. Scores of other devices and materiel techniques, less spectacular but no less important, came from the Board's laboratories, shops, and drafting rooms.

During these pioneering years, the Advanced Base Force at Quantico had become the East Coast Expeditionary Force in 1921, and the Fleet Marine Force in 1935. It played its part in amphibious development by putting to practical test the doctrine and equipment evolved and invented by the Schools and the Equipment Board. Beginning with FLEX-1 in 1935, annual Fleet Landing Exercises under realistic but carefully controlled conditions provided sure means of discovering flaws in theory, techniques, and materiel.

Fleet Marine Force troops tested amphibious doctrine and equipment, beginning with the first Fleet Landing Exercise (FLEX-1) in 1935.

One of the innovations which featured the emerging art of amphibious warfare was the concept of close air support.

An amphibious assault is necessarily weak in artillery support, especially during the early phase of a landing. This deficiency was more than offset by the development of a technique of naval gunfire support. To an even greater degree, it was offset by the evolution of a system in which the commander of a ground unit as small as a battalion could call for air support, and within a matter of minutes could direct the delivery of aerial bombs, rockets, and machine-gun fire on targets as close as a hundred yards from his own troops.

Such a system of close air support demanded the highest order of skill on the part of the pilot, an intimate familiarity of the pilot with ground tactics, and an equal familiarity of the ground commander with the capabilities and limitations of the supporting aircraft. These things were possible in a service in which aviation officers and ground officers lived together, worked together, sat at school together, and played together. They were commonplace at Quantico, where an air-ground team had existed ever since the kite balloons first flew over Chopawamsic Creek in 1918.

The Marine air-ground team in action.

As a result of the pioneering work of the 1920's and 1930's, the Marine Corps was ready for amphibious warfare, and ready to train others to wage it, when the opening guns of World War II sounded. In the hands of the Allied Nations, modern amphibious doctrine and equipment made possible the invasions of North Africa, Sicily, Italy, and Normandy, and the sweep across the Pacific to the doorstep of Japan.

This doctrine and equipment bore the trademark—Quantico.

In World War II, Quantico left its imprint on beaches from Normandy to Iwo Jima.

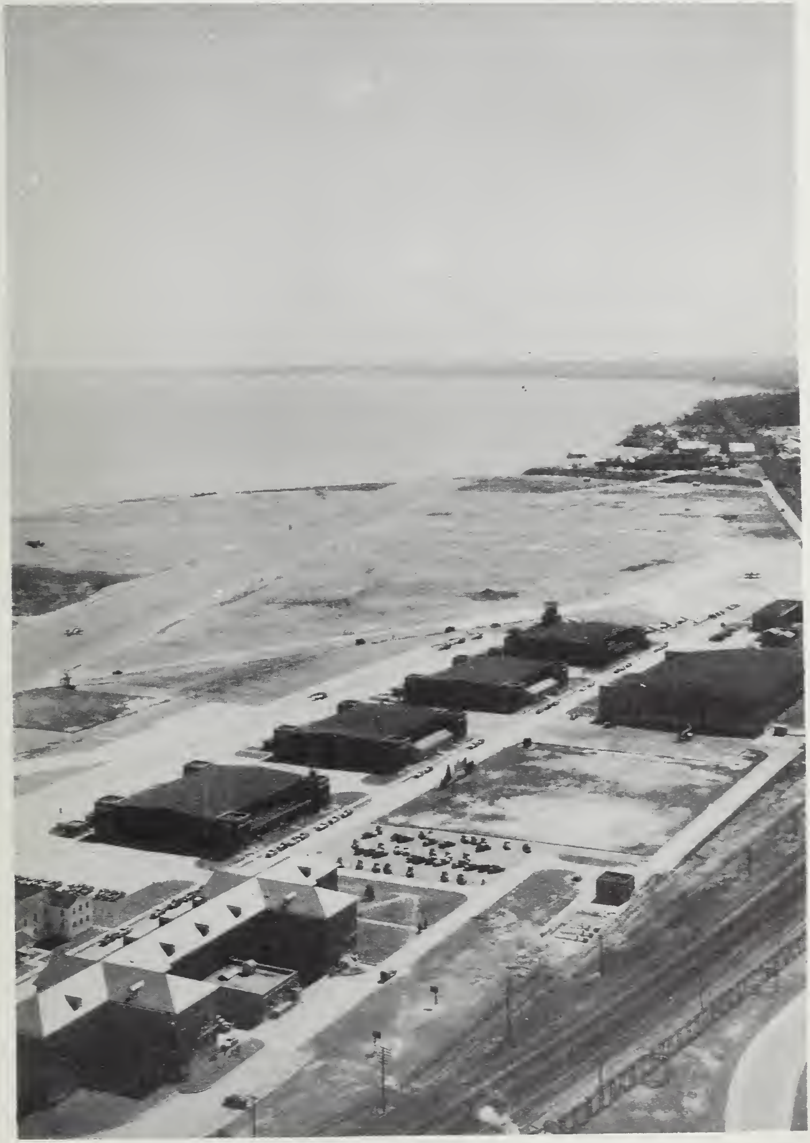
Expansion

Thanks to careful husbanding, many of the early Quantico buildings—including some of those ferried from the Stump Neck barracks—are still in service, although they were erected originally as "temporary" structures. The first permanent buildings—three of the large barracks facing Barnett Avenue—were not completed until 1929.

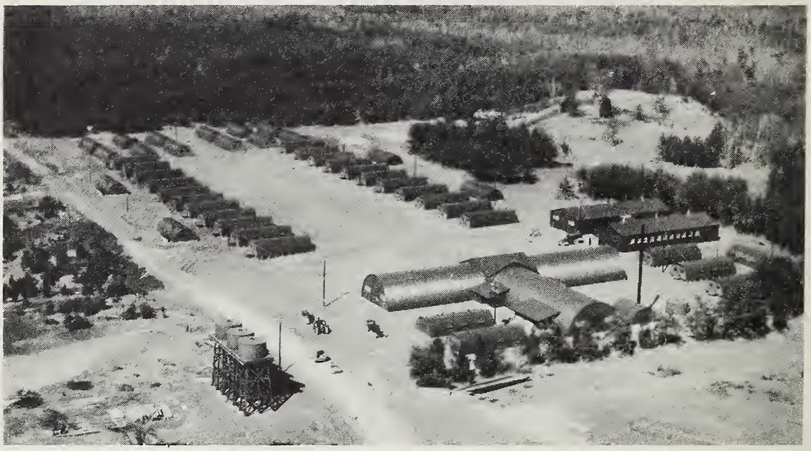
In contrast to this slow beginning, permanent construction went ahead rapidly in the 1930's under the initial impetus of the public works program of the depression and the later stimulus of impending war. New school buildings, offices, shops, warehouses, barracks, and quarters were erected, and Quantico began to assume its modern appearance.

Permanent construction began in 1929, and continued through the 1930's.

This period also brought recognition of the limitations and hazards of Brown Field—its single cross-wind runway bounded by hills, swamp, a high-tension line, and a railroad—and a spacious new field was constructed by reclaiming marsh land at the mouth of Chopawamsic Creek. The new field was named Turner Field, after Colonel Thomas C. Turner, a veteran Marine aviator who lost his life in Haiti in 1931.



Turner Field was built on reclaimed marsh land.



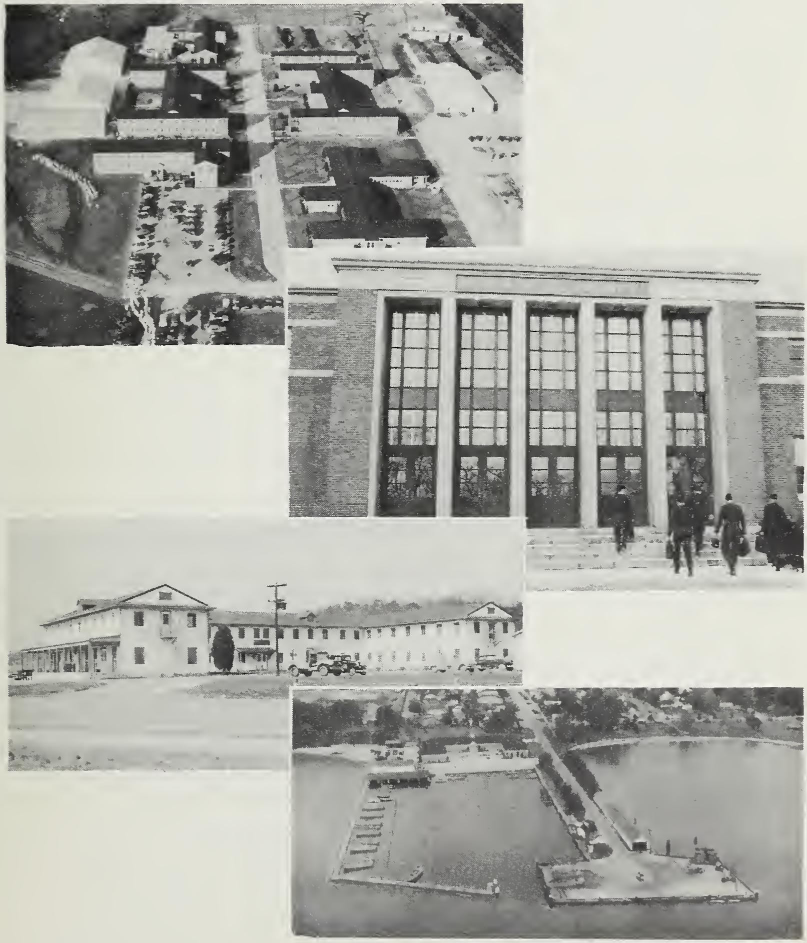
Camp Goettge, named for Colonel Frank B. Goettge who was killed on Guadalcanal, was one of several camps erected in the area added to the Quantico base in 1942.

The advent of World War II accelerated the growth of Quantico. In 1942, some 50,000 acres of rolling pasture and woodland west of U. S. Highway No. 1 were annexed to the reservation to provide needed maneuver, firing, and bombing ranges. The new area was christened the "Guadalcanal Area," in honor of the then recent conquest by General Vandegrift and the 1st Marine Division. Additional barracks, classrooms, shops, and warehouses were built. And low-cost housing, financed by the Government, was introduced to furnish shelter for the growing number of families unable to find other accommodations. Quantico had become the Quantico of today.

Chamberlain Village brought low-cost housing to Quantico.

Despite the expansion of base facilities which took place in the late 1930's, the Fleet Marine Force finally outgrew Quantico, and in 1941 it moved to a new home at Camp Lejeune and Cherry Point, North Carolina. Since then, the principal mission of Quantico has been the individual education of Marines, as distinguished from unit training.

The Marine Corps Schools, which had formerly been only one of many Quantico activities, now became the dominant one. In recognition of this fact, the designation of the base was eventually changed from "Marine Barracks, Quantico, Virginia," to "Marine Corps Schools, Quantico, Virginia."



More facilities were needed in World War II.

The Present

With the exception of the Parris Island and San Diego Recruit Depots, and a few specialist schools located elsewhere, all Marine Corps facilities for the instruction of Marines as individuals are concentrated in Quantico. Such a concentration results in obvious and substantial economies, as it obviates the duplication of administrative groups, libraries, training aids, demonstration troops, and other educational facilities which would be required if the Marine Corps were to scatter its schools among its several major posts and stations. The concentration of schools also promotes an academic spirit conducive to thought and study.

At the intellectual apex of the Marine Corps Schools is the **Amphibious Warfare School, Senior Course.** Its purpose is to train senior field officers for command and staff duties with the higher ground and aviation echelons of the Fleet Marine Force. It is the only advanced command and staff course in existence which places primary emphasis on the requirements of amphibious and advanced base operations.

An amphibious command post exercise, involving an actual landing, is a feature of the instruction in the Amphibious Warfare School, Senior Course.

The Amphibious Warfare School, Junior Course, equips captains and junior field officers for command and staff duties in a regiment or an air group of the Fleet Marine Force. At its level, it too is unique in its emphasis on amphibious and advanced base operations.

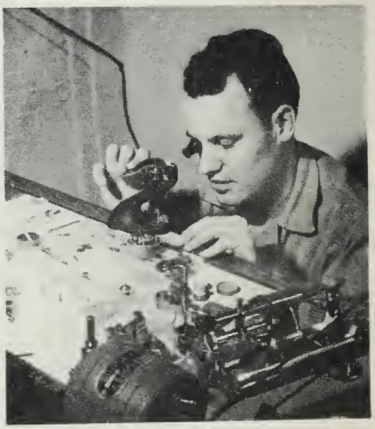
A Chilean student questions an instructor in the Amphibious Warfare School, Junior Course. Many foreign officers, as well as officers of other U. S. armed forces, attend the Marine Corps Schools.

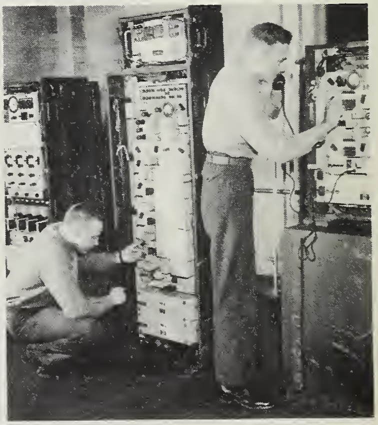
The foundation of the educational pyramid for the Marine officer is the **Basic School**, which trains the newly commissioned second lieutenant for duty ashore or afloat, and particularly for duty as a rifle platoon leader. It should be noted, in this connection, that the Marine Corps draws only a minority of its officers from a service academy—the Naval Academy. The preponderance of the several hundred young second lieutenants commissioned each year come from civilian colleges and from the enlisted ranks. The year's training at the Basic School provides these young men of varied background with a common basis of professional knowledge and attitude.

In the three courses of instruction just enumerated, no distinction is made between ground and aviation officers, and the curricula include both ground and aviation subjects. The breadth of this educational approach has had much to do with the success of the Marine Corps's air-ground team.

Basic School students spend much time on the range and in the field.

The remaining five of the regular resident courses of instruction conducted at Quantico are technical in nature. They are the **Communication Officers' School,** the **Ordnance School,** the **Air Observation School,** the **Aviation Technical School,** and the **Women Officers' Indoctrination Course.** It is their mission to provide the Marine Corps with officer and enlisted specialists.



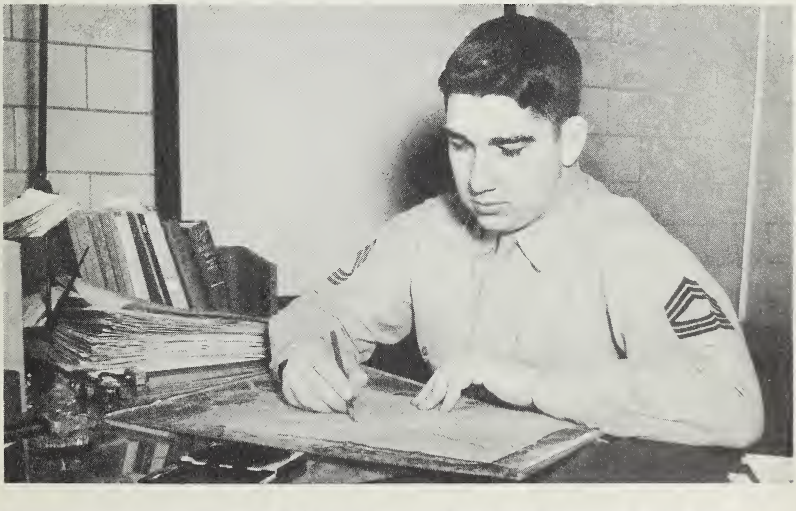


Technical schools demand a high order of intelligence and mechanical skill.

Summer training is intensive and realistic.

In addition to regular resident courses, the Marine Corps Schools conduct numerous summer training courses to meet variable requirements. Among these are the Volunteer Reserve Officers' Staff Course, the Platoon Leaders' Class, the Naval Reserve Officers' Training Corps Class, and a Pre-Basic School Class. Summer training is also provided for several battalions of the Organized Marine Corps Reserve.

Besides furnishing resident instruction, the Marine Corps Schools have the mission of teaching non-resident members of the Marine Corps and the Marine Corps Reserve. This task is carried out by the Extension Division, which now has more than 5,000 Marines enrolled in its seven courses.



Teaching more than 5000 Marines by mail is the job of the Extension Division.

Obviously, neither the Marine Corps Schools located at Quantico, nor the few schools operated by the Marine Corps elsewhere, are capable of providing instruction in all subjects in which the Corps must have experts. Marine Corps schools furnish instruction peculiar to the types of warfare in which the Corps specializes, or which relates to equipment unique to the Corps by reason of its specialties. For other instruction, and to provide the broadest possible professional outlook, Marines are habitually sent to schools of other services. By the same token, the Marine Corps Schools are open to and are attended by students from other services (and from other nations) who come to Quantico to learn the intricacies of amphibious warfare and advanced base operations.

The Future

Quantico still looks at its job through bifocal glasses.

At the near focus is the task of perfecting the individual Marine in the techniques which he must employ if he is called upon to spring to action TODAY in defense of the Nation's interest. This is the academic task.

At the distant focus, but no less sharply defined, is the task of devising new doctrines, new techniques, and new equipment which will bring victory under the changed conditions which will prevail TOMORROW. This is the pioneering task.

New techniques of warfare in the making.

The role of the pioneer was voluntarily assumed by the Marine Corps in the 1920's. It became a statutory responsibility with the passage of the National Security Act in 1947. With this inheritance, the Marines are moving steadily forward in developing the art of warfare, and Quantico, as always, is in the van.

Seldom in history have military innovations come as rapidly as in the past decade, with the advent of long range aircraft, nuclear and biological weapons, and guided missiles. To exploit these new discoveries and devices, and to offset their use by potential enemies, Quantico is hard at work. The Schools are probing the possibilities of using submarines as a means of bringing Marine striking forces to grips with the enemy. The potentialities of air transport are being explored, with particular emphasis on those of the helicopter and the assault seaplane. Revolutionary systems for the exploitation of air-ground teamwork are under development. Supporting these investigations of broad scope are many lesser projects for the evolution of new weapons and equipment and the tactics and techniques for their employment.

Behind all this is the simple desire which all Marines have held close to their hearts since the Corps was founded in 1775. *The desire to be ready — ready today, and ready for tomorrow.*

"THE MARINES HAVE LANDED"!
APPLY TO NEAREST RECRUITING STATION

Generations of young Americans have dedicated their careers to the Marine tradition of readiness.

SEMPER
FIDELIS

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